

EXCIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SECRET

May 14, 1956

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: NEA - William M. Rountree

SUBJECT: Ambassador Wadsworth's Meeting with
President on Wednesday, May 9

When Ambassador Wadsworth was received by the President on Wednesday, May 9, he handed him the following three documents which the President read:

1. A personal "oral" message from King Saud which the King gave Ambassador Wadsworth for the President on April 2;
2. A supplementary letter signed by King Saud in the Arabic original and with an English-language translation dated April 3;
3. A brief summary "break-down" of the Saudi Arabian "Five Year Plan" for strengthening the Saudi Armed Forces with Ambassador Wadsworth's recommendations as to:

(a) Meeting current Saudi requests to buy arms;

(b) Priorities for delivery, if arms are sold to Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Wadsworth suggested [REDACTED] the President invite King Saud to visit him. He believed they would succeed.

Ambassador Wadsworth commented that the President appeared to take kindly to this suggestion.

At the request of the President's Secretary, Ambassador Wadsworth left a memorandum at the White House incorporating all the above with exception of the comment regarding the President's reaction to his suggestion.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY RCR DATE 4/15/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1956

Your Majesty:

I am taking the opportunity to send to you by Ambassador Wadsworth my acknowledgment of your recent messages. Both the one which you gave the Ambassador orally during his farewell audience and your subsequent letter of April third are new milestones in the long history of the relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia. I am most appreciative of the sincere expressions of friendship which these convey.

We greatly value the close relationship which has existed between our two countries and especially the basis of mutual trust and cooperation which has characterized that friendship. In recent months I have been impressed by the understanding and statesmanlike patience with which you have faced the numerous problems and pressures upon you and by your resolute determination to shun the temptations of precipitate action.

We are encouraged by the word which Ambassador Wadsworth brings on the Dhahran Airfield. We are gratified that it is your intention to continue our cooperation in this matter. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my desire to continue to cooperate in the strengthening of your Kingdom. Ambassador Wadsworth is now in a position to discuss fully with you how, in our view, this objective may best be implemented and how the United States may be of assistance to you in the strengthening of your defense force.

I thank you for that portion of your message concerning Buraimi. We are hopeful that it may soon be possible for your Government and that of the United Kingdom to bring your discussions of the issues between you to a satisfactory conclusion. We will continue to exercise our good offices to the end that your discussions may be fruitful.

WASHINGTON
The United States continues to be deeply interested in the territorial integrity, prosperous development and independence of Saudi Arabia. I look forward to a continued period of close and mutually beneficial friendship between us and our peoples.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower

His Majesty
Saud ibn Abd al-Aziz Al Saud
King of Saudi Arabia
Jidda